IN THE CLAIMS:

Please enter the following amendments and/or additions:

1. (Twice Amended)A method of producing a semi-hard magnetic material ~~having either a magnetized state or a demagnetized state~~, wherein the magnetic coercive force Hc of the semi-hard magnetic material is greater than or equal to 800 A/m, ~~which~~ semi-hard magnetic material can maintain a magnetized state and can ~~also~~ be demagnetized, comprising the steps of: preparing a multilayer body in ~~which~~ layers "A" each consist essentially of Fe having magnetism and layers "B" each containing a non-magnetic Cu group metal as the main component thereof are stacked on each other; heating the multilayer body so that each of the layers "B" is partially divided by a dividing heat treatment; and applying a cold plastic working to the multilayer body.

2. (Previously Amended)A method of producing the magnetic material according to claim 1, wherein the dividing heat treatment is performed at a holding temperature of 685 to 1085°C for a holding period of 10 to 180 minutes.

3. (Previously Amended)A method of producing the magnetic material according to any one of claims 1 or 2, further comprising the step of performing, after the step of said cold plastic working, a steepness-affording heat treatment so that squareness ratio and magnetization steepness are enhanced by heating the multilayer body.

4. (Previously Amended)A method of producing the magnetic material according to claim 3, wherein the steepness-affording heat treatment for enhancing the squareness ratio and

the magnetization steepness by heating is performed at a holding temperature of 400 to 700°C for a holding period of 2 to 120 minutes.

5. (Previously Amended)A method of producing the magnetic material according to claim 1, further comprising the step of performing cold working so that the multilayer body becomes a thin sheet having a thickness of 0.03 to 1.0 mm.

6. (Twice Amended)A semi-hard magnetic material ~~having either a magnetized state or a demagnetized state~~wherein the magnetic coercive force Hc of the semi-hard magnetic material is greater than or equal to 800 A/m which semi-hard magnetic material can maintain a magnetized state and can also be demagnetized., said magnetic material having a structure in which layers "A" each consist essentially of Fe having magnetism and layers "B" each containing a non-magnetic Cu group metal as the main component thereof are stacked on each other, each of said layers "B" being provided with a shape of a segmented substantially sheet-like layers. sheet partially divided

7. (Previously Amended)A magnetic marker having the magnetic material according to claim 6, said magnetic material being located so that a bias magnetic field is applied to a magnetostrictive element used for said magnetic marker.

Claim 8 and 9 cancelled

10. (Previously Amended)A magnetic marker having the magnetic material according to claim 6, said magnetic material being located so that a bias magnetic field is applied to a magnetostrictive element used for said magnetic marker.

11. (New)A method of producing a semi-hard magnetic material , wherein the magnetic coercive force Hc of the semi-hard magnetic material is greater than or equal to 800

A/m, which semi-hard magnetic material can maintain a magnetized state and can also be demagnetized, comprising the steps of: preparing a multilayer body in which layers "A" each consist of Fe having magnetism and layers "B" each containing a non-magnetic Cu group metal as the main component thereof are stacked on each other; heating the multilayer body so that each of the layers "B" is partially divided by a dividing heat treatment; and applying a cold plastic working to the multilayer body.

12. (New)A method of producing the magnetic material according to claim 11, wherein the dividing heat treatment is performed at a holding temperature of 685 to 1085°C for a holding period of 10 to 180 minutes.

13. (New)A method of producing the magnetic material according to any one of claims 11 or 12, further comprising the step of performing, after the step of said cold plastic working, a steepness-affording heat treatment so that squareness ratio and magnetization steepness are enhanced by heating the multilayer body.

14. (New)A method of producing the magnetic material according to claim 13, wherein the steepness-affording heat treatment for enhancing the squareness ratio and the magnetization steepness by heating is performed at a holding temperature of 400 to 700°C for a holding period of 2 to 120 minutes.

15. (New)A method of producing the magnetic material according to claim 11, further comprising the step of performing cold working so that the multilayer body becomes a thin sheet having a thickness of 0.03 to 1.0 mm.

16. (New)A semi-hard magnetic material wherein the magnetic coercive force He of the semi-hard magnetic material is greater than or equal to 800 A/m which semi-hard magnetic material can maintain a magnetized state and can also be demagnetized., said magnetic material having a structure in which layers "A" each consist essentially of Fe having magnetism and layers "B" each containing a non-magnetic Cu group metal as the main component thereof are stacked on each other, each of said layers "B" being provided with a shape of a sheet partially divided.

17. (New)A magnetic marker having the magnetic material according to claim 16, said magnetic material being located so that a bias magnetic field is applied to a magnetostrictive element used for said magnetic marker.

18. (New)A magnetic marker having the magnetic material according to claim 16, said magnetic material being located so that a bias magnetic field is applied to a magnetostrictive element used for said magnetic marker.